

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2477**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Price**

February 21, 2008

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An act to add Division 8 (commencing with Section 15000) to the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to job training.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2477, as introduced, Price. California Green Jobs Act of 2008: job training: green jobs.

Existing law contains various programs for job training and employment investment.

This bill would set forth legislative findings and declarations relating to green jobs, as defined, and would enact the California Green Jobs Act requiring the Employment Development Department to establish green job training programs, as provided, and a statewide database for identifying and tracking new jobs and the skills needed to expand the renewable energy and energy-efficient industries.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Division 8 (commencing with Section 15000) is  
2     added to the Unemployment Insurance Code, to read:

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4     DIVISION 8. CALIFORNIA GREEN JOBS ACT OF 2008

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6     15000. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

1 (a) (1) “Green jobs” are manual labor jobs in businesses whose  
2 products and services directly improve environmental quality.  
3 Green jobs are high-quality jobs, with relatively low barriers to  
4 entry, and are in sectors that are poised for dramatic growth.  
5 Cultivating green jobs can serve as an effective strategy to provide  
6 low-income Californians with jobs that pay living wages, provide  
7 benefits, and allow opportunities for advancement and meaningful  
8 work that serves communities.

9 (2) Green jobs involve environmentally friendly products or  
10 services, such as construction of green schools, solar panel  
11 manufacturing, energy-efficient retrofits of homes, and  
12 environmental cleanup and waterfront restoration. Green jobs are  
13 also jobs that contribute to environmental protection, such as the  
14 manufacture and installation of pollution control equipment or  
15 recycling plants.

16 (3) Green jobs often are locally oriented, which makes it harder  
17 to move those jobs offshore. Green jobs create sustainable living  
18 economies, decrease pollution, and create healthier cities and better  
19 neighborhoods for families.

20 (b) The Legislature recognizes that the green industry creates  
21 three times more jobs than the chemical industry, six times more  
22 jobs than the apparel industry, and 10 times more jobs than the  
23 pharmaceutical industry. A study done by the Environment  
24 California Research and Policy Center shows that, for California  
25 alone, a renewable energy industry servicing the export market  
26 may generate up to 16 times more employment than an industry  
27 that only manufactures for domestic consumption.

28 (c) Funding a “Green Jobs Initiative” is a cost-effective  
29 investment by the state, and the state will recoup the cost of its  
30 investment through lower unemployment.

31 15001. The California Green Jobs Act of 2008 is intended to  
32 address the labor shortages that impair the construction of  
33 energy-efficient buildings, manufacturing of energy-efficient  
34 vehicles, biofuels development, and the overall growth of the green  
35 technology industry.

36 15002. The Employment Development Department shall  
37 establish a statewide database for identifying and tracking new  
38 jobs and the skills needed to expand the renewable energy and  
39 energy-efficient industries, and to link research and development  
40 in the green industry to job standards and training curricula.

1     15003. The Employment Development Department shall  
2 establish green job training programs and shall ensure that those  
3 programs include vocational training useful to workers in the  
4 renewable energy and energy-efficient industries.

5     15004. It is the intent of the Legislature that occupational  
6 training and supportive services for workers be included in the  
7 training programs created under this act, with priority given to  
8 training programs for veterans, displaced workers, at-risk youth,  
9 and participating private partnerships.

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